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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Arming of Merchant Vessels

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1. Preparations for arming Polish merchant vessels are said to have been started. Near the Gdynia shipyard there is a small workshop with the designation R.O.S.; 1 it has been assigned the job of performing the necessary work on the ships which are to be armed. The work involves setting up positions on board for artillery, together with preparing places for ammunition. During the war, some of the present Polish merchant vessels carried armament, but this was removed, as well as auxiliary equipment, after the end of the war. These ships will be the first to be fitted out, so that they can be furnished with armament.
2. Some of the present Polish merchant ships were based in England during the war and participated in convoys or in other military actions; during that period of service, they were fitted out with artillery and carried stocks of ammunition. Following their return to Poland, without guns or ammunition, all gun positions were removed and ammunition storerooms were converted into quarters for the crew. At present, however, the HEL and the BIALYSTOK, both of which were based in England during the war, are the first ships to receive the same fittings that they had had in wartime: they are being fitted out with emplacements for guns and searchlights, and the former ammunition storerooms, which were converted into cabins, have been re-converted into ammunition chambers.² This fitting-out work is being performed by the shipyard at Gdynia. After being installed on the ships, the guns and searchlights are removed from the ships.³ All ships serving in the Polish-Chinese maritime line are to be fitted out in the same manner.

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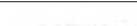



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1.  Comment. The R.O.S. is the Ships Repair Service (Remontowa Obsluga Statkow). 50X1-HUM
2.  50X1-HUM
3.  Comment. It is believed that  the guns and searchlights are test-fitted on their mountings, in order to insure that the mountings are in order, following which the guns and searchlights are removed from the ships, presumably to be permanently installed at a later date when deemed necessary.

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